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Commission payable to Messrs. Parry & Co. regarding Russellkonda saw mill.

*300 Q.—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state whether, under the terms of agreement entered into by Messrs. Parry & Co. in the matter of the Russellkonda saw mill, the commission payable to them should be calculated only on the sale price actually realized; and, if so, the reasons for the Government permitting a departure from the stipulated terms hitherto?

A.—Under the terms of the agreement, Messrs. Parry & Co. are entitled to commission on the sale price obtained, which is taken to mean commission on the sale price realized. No departure from this practice has been made.

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" My recollection is that this practice of giving commission on the sale price realized was not followed in the earlier portion of the period of contract."

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" I shall look into the matter and let the hon. Member know what was done previously."

Sriman SASIBHUSHAN RATH Mahasayo :—" I understand that a large part of the sale amount is pending unrealized. I want to know whether Messrs. Parry & Co. will receive commission even on the amount that has not been realized."

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" No."

Reserved forest area available for being handed over to the forest panchayats.

*301 Q.—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) what is the reserved forest area available in each of the districts throughout the Presidency for being handed over to the forest panchayats;

(b) what is the area handed over to the forest panchayats up to the close of the last official year;

(c) in how many years Government expect to hand over all the available area to forest panchayats;

(d) whether this will enable Government to reduce the forest service in its various grades gradually;

(e) if so, to what extent Government propose to reduce the forest establishment in its various grades; and

(f) what financial burden the new system will probably throw on the forest panchayats approximately?

A.—(a) The hon. Member's attention is invited to G.O. No. 703, Development, dated 12th May 1925, which is placed on the Editors' Table.

(b) $984\frac{1}{3}$ square miles.

(c) It is not possible to say definitely how long it will take to bring all 'ryots' forests' under panchayat management; but the process of handing over forests to panchayat management will be accelerated if the proposed augmentation of the panchayat staff is sanctioned.

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(d) & (e) The details of the reduction in establishment have not yet been decided. A saving of Rs. 2,500 is expected in the current year. The ultimate saving is estimated at Rs. 1,00,000.

(f) Panchayats have to pay the assessment fixed for the reserves entrusted to their management, the cost of the establishment they entertain and incidental expenses.

Mr. J. A. Saldanha :—" I want to know whether there will be re-arrangement of the Forest circle and whether the services of the Conservator of Forests can be spared so that if the 'ryots' forests' were transferred to the panchayat management the same officer can be appointed to look after this work without incurring any additional expenditure ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Muhammad Usman Sahib Bahadur :—" I shall consider the suggestion made by the hon. Member."

Jails.

Health of Mr. Surash Chandra Sen Gupta, a State prisoner in Trichinopoly jail.

* 302 Q.—Mr. S. Satyamurti : Will the hon. the Home Member and the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that Mr. Surash Chandra Sen Gupta, a State prisoner in Trichinopoly jail, is suffering from an internal disorder due to change in his climatic surroundings ; and

(b) whether the Government are taking measures to have the prisoner transferred to Bengal and if not, why not?

A.—(a) Mr. Surash Chandra Sen Gupta is not a State prisoner. He is undergoing a sentence of transportation for life for murder in dacoity under section 396, Indian Penal Code. He is not suffering from any internal disorder due to change in his climatic surroundings.

(b) At the request of the Government of Bengal orders have recently been issued for the transfer of the prisoner to the Alipore jail, Bengal.

Mr. P. Anjaneyulu :—" With reference to the answer given to this question, may I know whether there was any disorder either internally or externally or whether there was any wrong with this prisoner ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Muhammad Usman Sahib Bahadur :—" I am unable to say."

Mr. P. Anjaneyulu :—" As regards the answer given to clause (b), may we know on what ground the Government of Bengal requested this Government to transfer this prisoner to Alipore jail ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Muhammad Usman Sahib Bahadur :—" I am afraid I cannot give the information because it is confidential."